



FEDERATION OF PROTESTANT WELFARE AGENCIES

Key Facts on HIV & AIDS

HIV Prevalence and Trends

United States

On October 3, 2008, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention announced new HIV prevalence estimates that came as a result of improvements to the national HIV reporting data set. The estimates showed that there were more than a million people (an estimated 1,106,400 adults and adolescents) living with HIV infection in the United States at the end of 2006 and that gay and bisexual men of all races, African Americans, and Hispanics/Latinos were most heavily affected¹.

AIDS cases declined significantly after the introduction of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) in 1996, since HAART slows the progression of HIV to AIDS. In more recent years, these declines have ended and AIDS cases were stable between 2005 and 2006².

HIV transmission patterns have shifted over time. Heterosexual transmission accounts for a growing share of new AIDS cases, rising from 3% in 1985 to 32% in 2006. Over the same period, the share of new AIDS diagnoses attributable to sex between men fell from 65% to 43%. The share due to injection drug use was 19% in 1985, peaking at 31% in 1993, and dropping to 15% in 2006³.

New York

As of December 31, 2006, 116,384 people were living with HIV and AIDS in New York State, which is one-tenth of the population of PLWA/PLWHIV nationwide.

Of all cases of females living with HIV and AIDS in New York City in 2006, heterosexual transmission is the main cause of infection. Of all males living with HIV and AIDS in 2006, MSM (Men who have sex with Men) and IDU (intravenous drug use) are the two major modes of transmission in both New York State and New York City.

¹ *MMWR: HIV Prevalence Estimates—United States, 2006* available at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5739a2.htm>

² *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Vol. 18, 2008.

³ *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Vol. 18, 2008 and *The HIV/AIDS Epidemic in the United State – HIV/AIDS Policy Fact Sheet*, The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, March 2008, available at www.kff.org



Impact on Racial and Ethnic Minorities

- The AIDS epidemic continues to have a disproportionate impact on communities of color in the United States. Racial and ethnic minorities represented the majority of new AIDS cases (70%)⁴.
- In New York State and New York City, this trend is even more apparent. People of color make up 76% of all people living with AIDS in New York State. Within this population, 76% -- approximately 88,739 people reside in New York City⁵.
- Of all newly diagnosed HIV cases in New York State, about 35% of people living with HIV were diagnosed late, which means that they were diagnosed with AIDS within 12 months of getting an HIV diagnosis. Within this group, 50% are Black and 29% are Hispanic. Also, people who are aged 50 or older make up about 26% of late diagnosis⁶.

Impact on Women and Young People

- Nationally, women represent a growing share of new AIDS cases, rising from 8% in 1985, to 20% in 1995, and reaching 27% in 2000, the same share as today⁷.
- In New York City, of all cases of females living with HIV and AIDS, women of color consistently compose over 90% of the population in both 2005 and 2006, and that women in the age 50 or above category have increased from 26% or 7,170 in 2005 to 28% or 8,055 in 2006.
- In New York City, the HIV infection rate among young people between the ages of 13 and 24 continues to increase in both gender groups from 12.7% or 451 in 2005⁸ to 15% or 539 in 2006.

HIV/AIDS and Poverty

- As of December 2008, 31,122 medically-eligible people in New York City received some level of HIV/AIDS Service Administration (HASA) benefits. Within this population, 11,070 were female adults, which is 35.6% of the total number of clients served by HASA, and 350 were children.
- As of December 2008, 72.5% of all clients served by HASA received Safety Net Assistance, 29% of them received Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and 14% of them received Social Security Disability (SSD) in addition to HASA benefits.

⁴ *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Vol. 18, 2008.

⁵ Available at http://www.health.state.ny.us/diseases/aids/statistics/annual/2006/2006-12_annual_surveillance_report.pdf

⁶ *ibid.*

⁷ *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Vol. 18, 2008.

⁸ Available at http://www.health.state.ny.us/diseases/aids/statistics/annual/2005/2005-12_annual_surveillance_report.pdf